

**In The Claims:**

Under 37 CFR § 1.121(c)(1)(i), please amend claim 3 as follows:

*A*

3. (Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein said diagnostic circuit is configured to produce said output signal with a pulse width indicative of a non-combustion event if said ion current flowing across said electrode gap is less than a second predefined amount of current.

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the subject application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Applicants have herein amended claim 3 to correct a grammatical error, without narrowing the scope of the claim. A marked-up version of amended claim 3 is attached hereto as Appendix A under 37 CFR § 1.121(c)(1)(ii).

Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,032,650 to Rask. For at least the following reasons, applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant's claimed invention is directed to an ignition diagnostic system including an ignition coil operatively connected across an electrode gap of an ignition plug, means for producing a bias voltage across the electrode gap, a detection circuit for detecting ion current flowing across the electrode gap resulting from the bias voltage, and a diagnostic circuit producing an output signal based on the ion current, wherein the output signal defines a pulse width that varies proportional to an amount of the ion current flowing across the electrode gap. Each of applicant's